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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,637	02/15/2002	Gregory D. Zilker	930009-2004	5473

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FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

HUG, ERIC J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/077,637

Applicant(s)

ZILKER, GREGORY D.

Examiner

Eric Hug

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2002.

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8-12 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 and 12 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 12 is a statement of intended use, and does not further limit the structure of the papermaking fabric.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tate et al (US 5,558,926). Tate discloses a woven endless fabric in an apparatus for densifying pulp. The fabric has a guide protrusion (8) at the edge of the fabric placed on the underside. The guide protrusion keeps the fabric from shifting laterally during operation. On the upper side of the

fabric along the same edge is a polyurethane resin (7) which is fused with the guide protrusion. The resin extends inwardly from the edge at a distance sufficient to prevent bending and breaking of the fabric along the guide protrusion. Figure 4 shows that both edges of the fabric have a guide protrusion and resin.

The flexure point of the fabric is the location between the guide protrusion and the end of the underlying roll upon which fabric is carried. This is equivalent to the "transition point" of the present invention. In Tate, the polyurethane resin extends beyond this point and into the body of the fabric. The resin also penetrates through the entire thickness of the fabric, thus serving as reinforcement.

In column 5, lines 33-43, Tate states that on the upper surface of the fabric the polyurethane resin penetrates sufficiently into the fabric nearly up to the opposite surface. The protrusion member, which is also made of a polyurethane resin, is then fused from the underside of the fabric, thus integrally fusing both polyurethane resins. Thus, the resin is present on both surfaces.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not disclose or suggest a papermaking fabric having coated edges whereby the coating extends beyond the transition (flexure) point onto the body of the fabric at varying distances from the transition point, resulting in a non-linear shape along the length of the fabric where the coating terminates. Prior art fabrics having coated protected edges are made with the protecting materials formed as a strip and aligned parallel with a longitudinal edge of the fabric, resulting in a coating that extends the same distance from the edge along the length of the fabric.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Crosby (US 6,503,602) discloses a dryer fabric having thermoplastic reinforced edges.

Nagura et al (US 5,840,378) adds further reinforcement to the belt of Tate (described above) by means of widthwise reinforcing strips.

Schlueter, Jr. et al (US 5,814,566) discloses an endless belt having a protective fluorocarbon coating along both edges and on both surfaces of the edges.

Fleischer (US 5,422,166) discloses an abrasion resistant forming fabric having strips of abrasion resistant material on the underside of the fabric adjacent to the edge, where the fabric contacts papermaking equipment.

Koizumi et al (US 4,772,253) discloses an endless belt for a copying machine having an underlying layer of flexible material that extends across the width of the belt, and is integrally formed with a belt guide and protection piece at the edge of the fabric.


Borel (US 4,676,369) discloses a spiral link belt having edges protected with a woven fabric and optionally a thermoplastic material.


MacBean (US 3,523,867) discloses a fourdrinier wire belt having edges that are reinforced with reinforcing threads and an elastomer material.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872-9310 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.


jeh
February 13, 2003


STEVEN P. GRIFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700